



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner

To: Regional Directors
Assistant Regional Directors
PRAT Coordinators
Self Determination Directors
Operations Center

From: Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.

Date: October 12, 2011

Re: Employment First Initiative and Bureau of Rehabilitative Services Sign Off

As most of you know, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is in support of the national movement to give all individuals we support opportunities for fully integrated employment with wages that are at a competitive level. Recent updates to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Waiver Instructions and Technical Guide also highlight best practices in the use of waiver supports to increase these employment opportunities.

One specific activity that DDS can do to further these efforts is to support individuals who are attempting to access the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services (BRS) as part of their career development. The Regional Planning and Resource Allocation Teams have the authority to sign off and commit to appropriate requests for long-term DDS support as required by BRS. This will also apply for future high school graduates.

Attached is an example of the BRS form for commitment of ongoing support with language to be used in these cases. This process will allow DDS to have more referrals accepted by BRS and will allow us to stretch our day service dollars further.

Please communicate and discuss this change with all of relevant staff, and specifically with Case Management staff. If there are any question regarding this matter, please refer staff to the regional Self Determination Director.